



# Eastern Ukraine Східна Україна

POP 19.6 MILLION

## Includes »

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Chernihiv . . . . .         | 206 |
| Novhorod-Siversky . . . . . | 208 |
| Poltava . . . . .           | 209 |
| Kharkiv . . . . .           | 213 |
| Donetsk . . . . .           | 219 |
| Sviatohirsk . . . . .       | 223 |
| Soledar . . . . .           | 224 |
| Dnipropetrovsk . . . . .    | 225 |
| Zaporizhzhya . . . . .      | 228 |

## Best Places to Eat

- » Stargorod (p216)
- » Marrakesh (p221)
- » Yuzovskaya Pivovarnya (p221)
- » Reporter (p226)
- » Sto Dorih (p211)

## Best Places to Stay

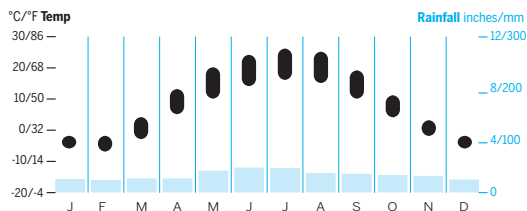
- » Sokolyny Khutir (p209)
- » Liverpool Art Hotel (p220)
- » Palazzo Hotel (p210)
- » Hotel Caspian (p226)
- » Hotel Cosmopolit (p215)

## Why Go?

East of the Dnipro, Ukraine starts blending into Russia. It is the land of Surzhyk – a hybrid dialect, finetuned by its speakers to make it sound more Russian or more Ukrainian, depending on the situation. This part of Ukraine is often dismissed as ‘not Ukrainian enough’ compared to the folkloric West, but from the economic and demographic point of view it is the country’s core. Most political heavyweights, including both leaders of the Orange Revolution, hail from here. So do major oligarchs. East Ukraine might be full of fuming industrial giants, but it also contains places that are key to understanding Ukraine, such as Zaporizhzhya Sich, a few underrated beauty spots and some unspoiled, quintessentially Ukrainian countryside. Done all that? How about playing football in a salt mine, 300m below surface? If only to warm up for Euro 2012, hosted by Donetsk and Kharkiv.

## When to Go?

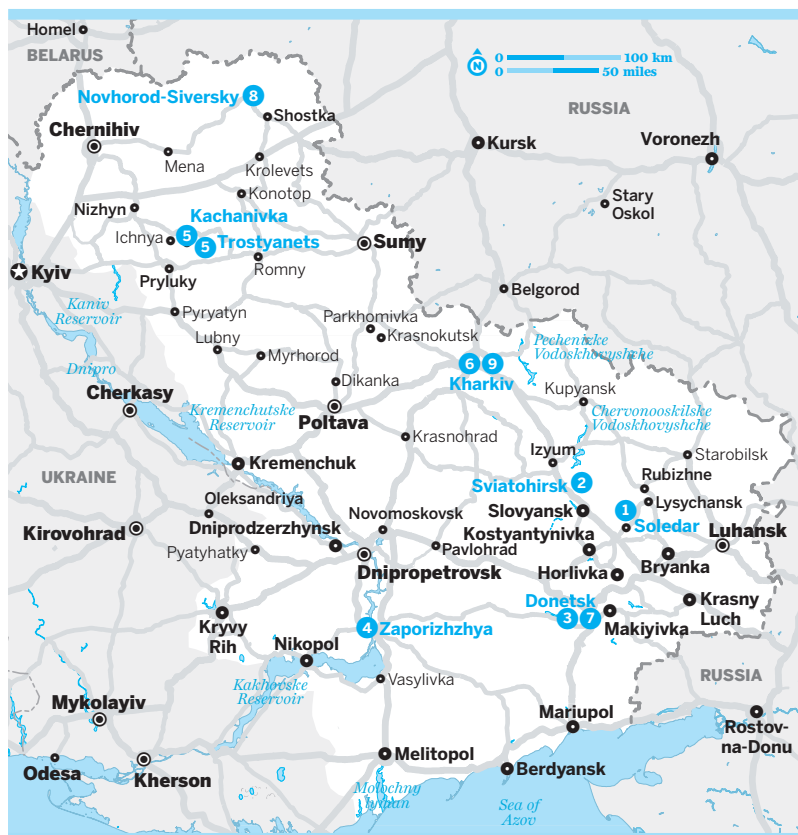
### Kharkiv



**May** All the country is aflame with blooming lilacs and fruit trees.

**July** Weather is mild in the north-eastern countryside. Pumpkins ripen and sunflowers bloom.

**September** Catch modern Ukrainian theatre and dance at Zaporizhzhya's Golden Khortitsa festival.



## Eastern Ukraine Highlights

- 1 Play football in the **Soledar salt mine** (p224), 300m underground
- 2 Visit a pretty cave monastery burrowed into dazzling chalk cliff in **Sviatohirsk** (p223)
- 3 Watch Shakhtar's domestic games and the Euro 2012 semi-final at the sparkling new **Donbass arena** (p219)
- 4 Learn all you need to know about Cossacks on **Khortytsya Island** (p228) in Zaporizhzhya
- 5 Set off to explore aristocratic estates from your Cossack hut in **Trostyanets** or **Kachanivka** (p209)
- 6 Check Ukraine's latest musical trends in **Kharkiv's clubs** (p218)
- 7 Sleep, eat and dance at the Beatles-themed alternative universe of **Liverpool** (p222) in Donetsk
- 8 Play Polovets Dances on your iPod while exploring Prince Igor's fiefdom in **Novhorod-Siversky** (p208)
- 9 Procure a pair of jeans and a bowl of Vietnamese noodles at **Barabashova Market** (p215) in Kharkiv

## Chernihiv ЧЕРНІВІВ

☎0462 / POP 305,000

A Kyivan Rus heavyweight, Chernihiv has never been as prominent since, which is why it retains many early medieval monuments and exudes lots of provincial charm. Apart

from observing a tight cluster of churches on a green bluff in the city's historical core, there is the sleepy Desna River to swim or kayak in and a couple of nice places to eat or have a glass of locally brewed beer. Chernihiv makes a relaxing, rather than exciting, retreat from Kyiv's madness and